



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

CDFA and USDA personnel continue investigating herds that received cattle from or sold cattle to a Fresno County dairy herd found affected with bovine TB (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in January 2008. The herd was detected when a sample collected from a cow during routine slaughter inspection in December 2007 was positive for TB.

This investigation led to two additional Fresno County dairy herds confirmed with bovine TB. California will lose its TB Free status as a result of finding these additional affected herds. The loss will be effective when published in the Federal Register. Loss of TB-Free status will impose additional testing requirements on cattle moving out of state. California last lost its Free status in April 2003 after detecting three bovine TB-affected central valley dairy herds.

TB Testing & Cattle Culled To Date		
	# Herds	# Cattle Tests
Affected Herds	3	~20,000
Tested Herds	~102	~129,000
Depopulated Cattle	---	~800

The genotype of the isolate from the first affected herd is most similar to recent isolates from feedlot cattle in the South-Western U.S., many of which originated from Mexico. The genotyping of the isolate from the second herd does NOT match the first herd, indicating that the disease was not transmitted from one to the other. The affected cow found in the third herd originated from the first affected herd.

To prevent the spread of bovine TB, cattle producers should prevent contact between their breeding cattle and Mexican-origin cattle. Dairy cattle imported from other states require a negative test before entering California. Producers should maintain permanent identification of animals and keep records of animal movements into and out of their herd.

Bovine TB is a human health risk; people who drink raw milk and eat raw milk cheeses from infected animals are at most risk. Infected humans may spread TB back to cattle through sputum or urine.

California Surveillance*

Surveillance relies on private veterinarian testing and on slaughter surveillance. Last year, nearly 773,000 adult cattle slaughtered in California were inspected for TB; 2,000 suspicious samples were submitted for evaluation and all but three were negative for TB.

In 2007, private veterinarians did over 84,000 tuberculin skin tests in California, and had 348 responders (0.41% response rate); all were negative for TB.

National TB Report*

Between 2000 and 2008, 71 newly affected herds were detected in the U.S.; 28 were detected between 2005 and now. In April 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made \$16.8 million in emergency funds available to continue bovine TB eradication efforts in California, Michigan and Minnesota.

Arizona: One affected herd detected in 2005 was depopulated.

Colorado: One affected herd was detected in 2007 after an infected rodeo bull was found during routine slaughter surveillance in Texas. This herd was depopulated.

Michigan: Since 1998, 44 cattle herds and 2 cervid herds have been detected. Since 1995, 593 infected whitetail deer have been detected from over 161,897 examined. Infection has also been found in elk, coyotes, raccoons, black bears, bobcats, red foxes, and opossums. Michigan has three TB zones: Free, Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and Modified Accredited (MA).

Minnesota: Eleven affected beef herds have been detected: 3 in 2005, 2 in 2006, 2 in 2007, and 4 in 2008. Minnesota's status was downgraded to MA when four affected herds were found in a 12-month period. All affected herds have been depopulated. Seventeen cases of bovine TB have been confirmed in whitetail deer. Minnesota is planning to request split-state status.

New Mexico: One large affected dairy (two herds) was detected and depopulated in 2007. One affected dairy herd detected in 2003 remains under a test-and-removal plan, another was depopulated. New Mexico has split-state status (Free and MAA).

Oklahoma: One beef herd detected by slaughter surveillance was depopulated in 2007.

Texas: The last known infected herd was depopulated in September 2004 and Texas was declared TB free in September 2006.

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